

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

# News Release

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November 4, 1998

*Washington, D.C.* -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West, Jr., will join the President and millions of Americans on Wednesday, Nov. 11, as the nation pays tribute to her defenders -- America's veterans.

"As we stand at the dawn of a new millennium we recognize that the blessings of peace and prosperity that America enjoys today are due in no small part to the courage and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform," said President Clinton. "Veterans Day is a special time to remember and honor all those who have served in our Armed Forces."

Secretary West said, "A reflection of America's spirit is an appreciation for our veterans who have been the protectors and defenders of our cherished liberties and independence." Secretary West pointed out that America has a continuing obligation to her veterans. "Our commitment does not end when the shooting stops. We must work to heal the wounds of our nation's veterans and honor their sacrifices," he said.

In Washington, D.C., the annual Veterans Day observance will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, where President Clinton will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The event will take place at 11:00 a.m., for it is at that hour on Nov. 11, 1918, that World War I hostilities ended. The day later became known as Armistice Day, but in 1954 Congress renamed it Veterans Day to honor all those who served in America's Armed Forces.

The program, open to the general public, is sponsored by the Veterans Day National Committee, composed of Washington-based representatives of national veterans organizations. The Catholic War Veterans, USA, Inc., will host this year's activities at Arlington.

The program will feature patriotic music by the U.S. Marine Corps Band (The President's Own).

Secretary West noted that while Arlington captures much of the national attention on Veterans Day, the rest of the nation's observances are just as meaningful. To support nationwide activities, VA has asked the 50 Governors to name Veterans Day chairpersons to coordinate state observances and to work with service organizations, military officials and communities planning parades, ceremonies and other events.

The Veterans Day National Committee has designated the following sites for official regional Veterans Day observances:

**Birmingham, Alabama**

Mr. William M. Voigt  
National Veterans Day in Birmingham  
P.O. Box 642  
Birmingham, AL 35201  
(205) 254-2436

**Mobile, Alabama**

Colonel W.E. Callender  
Mobile Bay Area Veterans Day Commission, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2187  
Mobile, AL 36652-2187

(334) 431-8617

**Alameda, California**

Mr. Earl Starnes  
Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission  
200 Grand Avenue, #215  
Oakland, CA 94610  
(510) 208-7633

**San Jose, California**

Mr. Gene Fanucchi  
United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 26517  
San Jose, CA 95115-6517  
(408) 266-0596

**New Castle, Delaware**

Mr. Antonio Davila  
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs  
P.O. Box 1401  
Old State House The Green  
Dover, DE 19903  
(302) 739-2792

**Washington, D.C.**

Mr. Rick Sowell  
Veterans Day Parade Committee  
38 V Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 232-6902

**Atlanta, Georgia**

Mr. Marvin Myers  
Georgia Veterans Day Parade Association of Atlanta, Inc  
5879 New Peachtree Road  
Doraville, GA 30340  
(770) 458-1985

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

Commodore Thomas J. Lupo, USNR, Ret.  
Greater New Orleans Veterans Council, Inc.  
Smith Lupo Center  
145 Robert E. Lee Boulevard  
New Orleans, LA 70124  
(504) 283-3421

**Brunswick, Maryland**

Honorable Thomas L. Smith  
Mayor of Brunswick  
20 A Street  
Brunswick, MD 21716  
(301) 834-7500

**St. Louis, Missouri**

Mr. Ralph Wiechert

St. Louis Regional Veteran's Day Observance, Inc.  
Soldiers Memorial  
1315 Chesnut St.  
St. Louis, MO, 63103  
(314) 622-4550

**Columbus, Ohio**

Mr. William Miller  
MILVETS  
5941 Sachem Court  
Dublin, OH, 43017  
(614) 466-6942

**Douglas County Oregon**

Ms. Dodie Blessing  
Douglas County Veterans Network  
P.O. Box 100  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
(541) 440-1000 ext. 4159

**Albany, Oregon**

Ms. Patricia L. C. Mayfield  
Veterans Commemoration Association  
P.O. Box 2027  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
(541) 451-5799

**Nashville, Tennessee**

Mr. J.B. Loring  
Sr. Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council  
3231 Knobview Drive  
Nashville, TN, 37214  
(615) 885-0780

**Bonham, Texas**

Mr. Dwayne Vaughan  
Voluntary Service  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
1201 East Ninth Street  
Bonham, TX 75418-4091  
(903) 583-6282

**Auburn, Washington**

Honorable Chuck Booth  
Mayor of Auburn  
25 West Main  
Auburn, WA 98001-4998  
(206) 931-3043

**Port Angeles, Washington**

Lieutenant M. P. Rother  
U.S. Coast Guard Group Public Affairs Officer  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-1150  
(360) 457-2227

**Vancouver, Washington**

Mr. Jerry Bloss  
2003 N.E. 185th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
(360) 735-4975

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Mr. Dean Marsolek  
Veterans Day Parade Chairman  
AMVETS  
AMVET Post #60 HQ  
2690 South 8th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 481-7241

The committee also has sent a variety of materials to state and civic organizations and to more than 107,000 schools encouraging greater awareness of and involvement in Veterans Day.